



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 8/14/2006

GAIN Report Number: NL6029

Netherlands

Poultry and Products

H5N1 Avian Influenza Suspected in Dutch Zoo

2006

Approved by:

Roger Wentzel

U.S. Embassy, The Hague

Prepared by:

Bob Flach

Report Highlights: Initial tests indicate the bird flu variant H5N1 killed two young owls in the Rotterdam zoo.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1]
[NL]

On August 12, analysis conducted by the Dutch Wildlife Health Center indicated the presence of the bird flu variant H5N1 in two dead owls from the Rotterdam zoo Blijdorp. A second analysis undertaken by the Central Institute for Animal Disease Control in Lelystad gave the same result. Further analysis is underway to give a definitive result. The owl chicks were not vaccinated. Although most birds in Blijdorp are vaccinated, the zoo is taking measures to separate and cage as many birds as possible. Over the coming days, the Dutch veterinary authorities will take additional samples of the birds in the zoo.

Since it is believed that humans can only be infected with bird flu after close contact with infected birds or their droppings, the Dutch health authorities have decided the Blijdorp zoo does not need to close its doors for visitors. Precautions will need to be taken for employees. However, the zoo has been directed to take actions to minimize contact between birds and visitors.

According the Product Board for Livestock, Meat and Eggs, so far no import bans have been imposed as a result of the possible presence of H5N1 in the Dutch zoo. After the discovery of a low pathogenic form of the avian influenza virus on a Dutch poultry farm on August 1, it has been reported that Romania, Russia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan imposed either full or partial import bans on Dutch poultry (see GAIN Report NL6027 and NL6028).